

HOLY HAPPENINGS

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

November 2011

Inside the Issue:

Community Thanksgiving Feast
Pg 3

More on Missions
Pg 4



CDC News
Pg 6

Welcome to our World
pg 8

The Advent Season at a Glance

Advent Worship – Sundays @ 8:30 and
11:00a.m.

November 27 – Mary – Luke 1:26-38
December 4 – Joseph – Matthew 1:18-25
December 11 – Elizabeth - Luke 1:39-45
December 18 – Mystery Character

A Holy Covenant Christmas Celebration:

Welcome to our World

December 11 – 6:00 p.m.

Featuring the Chancel Choir, Song of
Zoe, Children's Choir, Hand Bell choir
and congregational carols accompanied
by a professional orchestra.

Christmas Eve Services
6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
One Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m.
The Shepherds

New Years Day – One Worship Service
@ 10:30 a.m.
The Wise Men



Encounter the Nativity
..through the stories of ordinary people

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00 pm, 8:00 pm, and 11:00 pm

Christmas Morning Service
10:30 am

Holy Covenant
United Methodist Church
22111 Morton Rd
Katy, TX 77449-3717

ph: 281.579.1200
web: www.holycov.org

HEARTWARMING CHRISTMAS CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA

Holy Covenant is excited about the 22nd annual Heartwarming Christmas. This year our show is Nov. 12th from 9 am to 4 pm. Sign-ups for volunteers has begun on covenant walk Sunday, Oct. 23. Come by this Sunday to sign up.

We rely on so many volunteers to make this day happen. Please greet, decorate, donate a basket, be a day helper or bake. It only requires a couple of hours of your time to work a shift.

Contact Bettie Rowell, bettiebr1999@hotmail.com 281-347-0316

Church-wide Thanksgiving Feast - November 16
Bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Turkey and ham
will be provided by the Adult Sunday School Classes.

A Word From Jay

I have had demolition and re-construction on my mind and heart lately. Morton Road, which runs in front of our church, is in the midst of major demolition and reconstruction (in case you haven't been here lately). This has caused more than its share of challenges for us at the church. Traffic delays, construction-related disorientation, and constantly changing accessibility are among the many challenges we have recently encountered.

The construction has also disrupted our phone and computer service on several occasions. Most recently, the switchover to what will be the westbound lanes of the road that has served us for some time has created a great deal of disorientation.

In addition to the road construction in front of the church, the parsonage is now in its third week of renovation. We presently do not have any kitchen accessibility and only limited laundry accessibility, while our furnishings and supplies for the kitchen, dining room, and laundry are in boxes, many of which are filling other parts of the parsonage. Our refrigerator and microwave are hooked up in our family room. Our only access to the back yard and garage is through the front door and around the driveway. With two dogs in the mix, I am sure you are getting the picture of our home life these days.

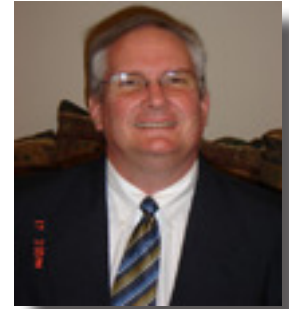
It is easy to feel frustrated and disoriented under these non-ideal circumstances. Church events and ministries have been impacted by the road construction. We are certainly not a one-day-a-week church. Our Child Development Center, particularly the carpool time, has been especially impacted by the ongoing construction and changing accessibility. At home, we are camping out and eating out more than we should.

This would be difficult to endure without a perspective that looks beyond the disruption. Before long, we will have a much improved and more heavily traveled road in front of our church that will make our accessibility and visibility greater than it has ever been previously. When all is done, the parsonage will have an updated and much more efficient kitchen, dining room, and laundry. Seeing beyond the difficulty and focusing on the ultimate blessings makes the challenges and the difficulties much more tolerable.

These disruptions at the church and at home are going to lead to a new and improved reality. This is true of the other more significant challenges and difficulties we face in life these days. Rather than be defeated by them, we are called to grow stronger through our endurance of them. With faith and perseverance, we can not only endure them, but awaken to a whole new reality that God holds for each of us, as well as for all of us together. We live in challenging times of continuous change. We have the opportunity through our faith and mutual support of one another to grow and flourish as we emerge from these challenging circumstances and embrace the blessings God offers us.

Much of our faith history is steeped in the greatest blessing emerging from the midst of the greatest difficulty. Exodus from enslavement, new and expanded identity from exile, resurrection from crucifixion, evangelistic explosion from persecution, and redemption from sin are all central transformations found throughout our faith history. Christianity and its opportunity for both personal and global transformation will no doubt come by means of a path of difficulty and challenge. By the grace of God, through the mutual support of one another, we can not only endure, but flourish as we embrace the challenges and unite in grasping the opportunities for blessing ahead. As we fight through challenges in each of our lives, may we see and embrace the blessing God holds for the faithful. Allow extra time and care and join us through this transition for worship and the many other opportunities we have to be the church. Join us in envisioning, embracing, and realizing the opportunity and blessing that lies beyond the challenges and difficulties. I look forward to seeing you at church.

Grace and Peace,
Jay



2011 KATY COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING FEAST

Thanksgiving is a time of celebrating all that God has blessed us with and what better way to celebrate than to share some of our blessings with others?

Antioch Baptist Church on Danover Street in Old Town Katy began a tradition of serving people that lived in their surrounding neighborhood. Over the past few years this outreach has grown and more people in need have been served. This year, local businesses are donating and cooking the meat, and various local churches have agreed to provide the side dishes necessary to complete a homemade Thanksgiving meal that will be made available to more Katy residents than ever before. It is such a great way to start the holiday season!

“WHAT CAN I DO?” YOU MIGHT ASK

Holy Covenant has been asked to supply the following:

40 people to make SWEET POTATOES to serve 20 each (1/2 c per serving)

People to set up, serve, work in kitchen, deliver a meal, and tear down

Donations of gently used coats, blankets, and non-perishable food items that will be available to those coming for meals

Monetary Donations for miscellaneous expenses (Checks can be made payable to HCUMC with notation of 2011 Katy Thanksgiving Feast)

WHERE?

Katy First UMC in their Family Life Center
Katy, TX 77493

5601 Fifth Street

WHEN?

THANKSGIVING DAY:

Donations Drop off: 9am-11am
2:30pm

Set up: 7am- 9am; Food/
Serving 11am -2pm; Tear Down 2pm-

HOW DO I RESPOND?

Whatever you can do is appreciated – it will be a great day!

Please call Kathy Fraser @ 281-415-1046 or 281-394-5554 or email at kmfraser@entouch.net

Catch the Spirit...the Spirit of Giving



CDC News



School is in full swing and fall brings many exciting activities. November will be busy with our Thanksgiving Feasts and Book Fair. The book fair will be held in Covenant Hall the week of November 14 – 17th during school hours. These books are very reasonably priced and make great gifts for birthdays and Christmas. Also, if you ordered any items from our Yankee Candle fundraiser, the orders will be delivered during the first week or two of December.

More on Missions

Compassion Katy - Many thanks to Bill LeCompte and our team of volunteers who worked with 7 churches last month to help four elderly individuals with home repairs. A working toilet and sinks were installed for a lady with no running water, as well as yard work, painting jobs, electrical and roofing work, and a hand rail installation for a wheelchair ramp. Mark your calendars for our next project slated for February 18 and 25.

2nd Annual Harry Ellis KCM Food Drive - Sunday November 6. Please bring your bags of non-perishable foods to the alter area on Sunday, November 6, as we celebrate All Saints Day and remember our very own saint, Harry Ellis, who so diligently gave of his time serving the food bank at Katy Christian Ministries. Bags will be passed out after the service on October 30 with immediate needs for coffee, Jell-O, toothbrushes, baby wipes, Mac N Cheese, canned fruit, mayonnaise, pancake mix & syrup, Spam, & ketchup. For more information on the services provided by KCM, visit www.KTCM.org

Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child - Please feel free to join the children's Sunday School Classes as they fill shoeboxes of goodies for children around the world. Stop by Covenant Walk on October 30 and November 6 for plastic shoeboxes and information packets on this project. The children will be presenting the boxes on Sunday, November 13, packed with hair ribbons, toothbrushes, toys, non-chocolate candy, books, and things that are non-liquid. Please remember to include \$7 cash or a check made out to Samaritan's Purse to help out with the shipping. See pamphlet on CW or contact Amy Garcia or Nancy Krahel for additional information.

Santa's Sleigh - Adopt a senior or a child this holiday season through KCM's Santa's Sleigh program. Unwrapped gifts ranging between \$75-\$125 per person, placed in a heavy black trash bag is a standard guideline to follow. St. Paul's Episcopal Church (5375 Franz) is accepting these donations on Dec 2 and 3. In order to track the process through HCUMC, we're asking any group that adopts either through KCM directly or through the church, to contact Janette Lewis at lewis10780@yahoo.com. We will be out on Covenant Walk for the first few weeks in November with opportunities to adopt and will accept drop offs on Sunday, November 27 and on Wednesday, November 30. Many thanks in advance for making this a great Christmas for those in our home community.

Adult Mission Trip Meeting - Sunday, October 30, after the 11:00 service in the chapel area for those interested in working with Branches UMC in Florida City over MLK weekend. We will be working fix up projects in the parsonage, church, and possibly going out into the community. For those desiring more of the softer skills, we will also be working registration and coordination for a MLK day of service sponsored by the church...and there's always working with the children! Please don't miss this important meeting as we need to finalize our headcount for airplane arrangements. Contact Pastor Stephanie with any questions.

2012 Mission Calendars on Sale - starting at Heartwarming! Not only will you be supporting our scholarship missionary fund but also will have first hand knowledge of upcoming mission opportunities throughout the next year.

A Word From Kabamba

It has been four months since I came to Holy Covenant United Methodist Church. What a blessing it has been to be on this journey of faith with you!

In my spiritual walk, I always think of all the great lessons that I learned from walking with my mother during my childhood. We would travel from one village to another through a narrow path with me in front and my mother right behind me. The grass was very tall on both sides of the path, and I felt as though the bush had just gobbled me up. We would also hear animal noises during the entire journey, and I would be reminded that we were journeying through the animals' world. During the first of these trips, I walked just a few steps forward, stopped suddenly, and then ran backward into my mother because I was just too overwhelmed to go on. I remember that, later, we saw a snake cross the path. Mother and I stopped until the snake crossed. We then continued on our way. Mother told me, "Keep your mind on the destination: the village where we are going. If you keep your mind on the noises all around us in this bush, you will never make it to the destination."



The journey of faith is not an easy one either. We encounter obstacles that overwhelm us, things that frighten us, and real dangers along the way. Jesus reminds us that the path is narrow, difficult, and easily missed: "For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it (Matt 7:14)."

Yet, we are not alone in this journey. We travel with our mother God, our brother Jesus, and our many church companions. It is as the Psalmist tells us in Ps 27: 1,11, 13-14:

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?....
Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies....
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

We all gain wisdom as we walk, like I did as a child, like the Psalmist of old did.

Here at Holy Covenant, we are blessed with many opportunities to grow strong, courageous, and wise as we walk with the Trinity and our fellows. Such things as Wednesday morning Bible study, Wednesday Night Encounter Studies, and Sunday school classes, all keep us focused on the destination and, thus, on the narrow path through the bush in which we live. With God and friends, we will walk to the destination.

Shalom,

Kabamba



Welcome to Our World: A Holy Covenant Christmas

During worship this Advent through Christmas, we will be encountering the nativity through the experiences of all of the ordinary people who surrounded the events of Christ's birth. This year's Christmas presentation on December 11th will be a musical re-telling of these stories along with the singing of your favorite traditional Christmas carols.

In our busy-ness during this season to make perfect every gift, every meal, every Christmas light, and every ornament, the story we remember is not so perfect: an inconvenient conception at an inconvenient time in a far-less-than-perfect maternity ward. (I would imagine it was nothing like the nativity scenes Christmas cards!) Not only that, but this God-made-flesh came and moved right into our neighborhood and dwelled amongst us with our worry, strife, fighting and hatred.

What a miracle it is that we don't have to have every detail just right during Christmas to know the Christ we celebrate. God comes to us as one of us; we most only listen to a chorus the angel's sang: peace and good-will has come to us-- here and now.

Through the talent and resources we have at this church, we are able to offer a very special gift to each other and our community through sharing the story of Christ's love through music and the arts. Make plans to attend this year's performance and let your friends and neighbors know that it is God himself that we welcome to our world.

The Chancel Choir is Growing!

Several new faces have joined the Chancel Choir for the Christmas festival! It's not too late to join us for rehearsals on Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00p.m.

A few good ringers needed!

We could use a few extra ringers in the Hand Bell choir. We are rehearsing for Thanksgiving/Christmas on Sundays after worship, 12:30-2:00p.m. Contact mj@holycov.org for more information.

Music Encounter for Kids

What a blessing it has been to have the children's choirs as regular participants in worship! A special thanks goes to the parents who see that their kids are at Wednesday Night Encounter activities and rehearsals and also ready to sing on Sundays when the choirs lead. The children will be singing next on November 20 and then on December 11th for the Christmas concert.



Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

22111 Morton Rd.
Katy, TX 77449

281.579.1200
office@holycov.org
www.holycov.org

Rev. Jay Jackson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Stephanie Lind, Associate Pastor
Rev. Kabamba Kiboko, Ph.D., Associate Pastor

Meeting the needs of People With the
Power of Christ



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church



Childrens Sunday School

Live B.I.G.
Children's Sunday School

November's B.I.G. Idea: We believe that we can trust God and know he is always with us.

November's Bible Verse: "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!"

Psalm 150:6

Breakfast with Santa

Santa Claus is coming to town and is making a stop at Holy Covenant on Saturday, December 10.

Pancakes will be served from 9:00-11:00 a.m..

Come and have your picture made with Santa, and tell him what you like for Christmas this year.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for Katy Christian Ministries.

Activities will be provided while you wait for your time with Santa.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes and evangelistic materials.

If you are interested in giving such a gift, you may pick up a brochure at the Children's Sunday School check in desk, the information desk or in the church office. The collection date is November 13. The boxes will be delivered on

November 14.

Page 8